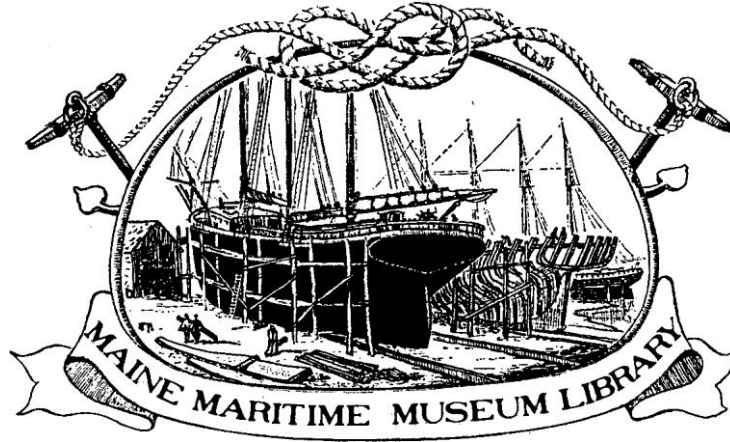


**Maine Maritime Museum Library**  
243 Washington Street  
Bath, Maine 04530-1638  
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**Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS-554**

**Captain Melvin E. Colcord Papers**  
**Inclusive dates: 1864-1889**  
**Bulk dates: 1881-1889**

by  
Tracy Lamaestra  
August 2012

Shelf feet: .25 linear feet  
Number of boxes: 1  
*Accession 2001.90.94*

**Cataloged as part of the Merchant Mariners Muster Project, funded  
by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the Council on  
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## Abstract

### **Colcord, Melvin E., *Captain* (1844-1912)**

Papers, 1864-1889 (Bulk dates: 1881-1889)

1 Manuscript size box, (.25 Shelf feet)

Master mariner, ship agent and ship owner from Stockton, Maine.

Captain Melvin E. Colcord vessel and personal papers. Vessels include *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine), *David Babcock* (Bark) and *Mignon* (Barkentine). The vessel papers consist of ownership, incoming correspondence, account summaries, accounts general (invoices, receipts), crew wages, articles of agreement, bill of health, freight and cargo, charter parties, clearances and miscellaneous (envelope). Personal papers are incoming correspondence and a fire insurance policy for Stockton, Maine property of Mrs. Josiah A. Colcord. The collection is arranged as follows: Series I. Vessel related papers and Series II. Personal papers.

Donated by Charles E. Burden.

MS-354. Accession No. 2001.90.94.

Finding aid available in repository; folder-level control.

### **Added entries—persons:**

Blake, *Captain*

Cleaves, F. [Frank] H., *Captain*

Colcord, Frederick D.

Colcord, Martha Berry (1818-1894)

Colcord, Melvin E., *Captain* (1844-1912)

Colcord, Roxanna Cleaves (1844-1912)

Freeman, Arno W., *Captain*

Patterson, *Captain*

### **Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):**

*Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine)

*David Babcock* (Bark)

*Mignon* (Barkentine)

### **Added entries—key terms:**

Accounts

Bills of health

Charter-parties

Fire insurance

Letters

Lumber trade

Seafaring

Ship captains

Shipping

Sugar trade

Voyages and travels

Wages

West Indies trade

## **Acquisition**

The Captain Melvin E. Colcord papers were donated to the Maine Maritime Museum by Charles E. Burden on October 1 and November 2001, accession no. 2001.90.94.

## **Provenance**

The Capt. M. E. Colcord Papers was part of a large donated collection from Charles E. Burden. It is unknown at this time where Mr. Burden got the papers (either purchase or given).

## **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on the study or use of these materials.

## **Physical Condition**

The papers were loosely organized in an archival box in folders. Many of the manuscripts are discolored or stained. Some of the papers are acidic. Others have creases, minor tears or missing pieces. Papers were flattened and ironed with a tacking iron at low to medium heat. A number of the records are fragile and should be handled with care. Fragile documents were sleeved in Melinex or archival Mylar. Acid /lignin free paper was placed between many of the papers to preserve writing and for additional support in sleeves.

## **Processing Notes**

The papers were found loosely organized. The collection is primarily vessel papers with a few additional personal papers. The documents were arranged into series: Series I. Vessel related papers and Series II. Personal papers. Vessel related papers are organized alphabetically by name of vessel and then by type and then chronologically by creation date. Vessel and personal papers follow a standardized sequence to simplify access. In general accounts for the *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine), voyages were broken down via invoices and separated by dividers.

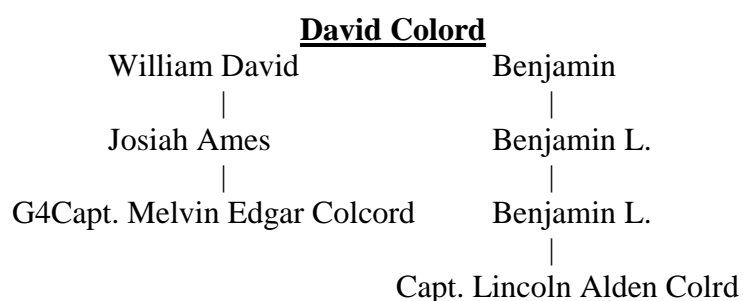
## **Biographical Notes**

### **Captain Melvin Edgar Colcord**

Captain Melvin Edgar Colcord was born on November 7, 1844 in Prospect, Maine to Josiah Ames (b. 1818-d. 1876) and Martha Jane (Berry) Colcord (b. 1818-d. 1894). Captain Colcord married Roxanna Larabee Cleaves (b. 1844-d. 1912) on March 31, 1866. They had children Marietta (b. 1867-d. 1873), Lizzie Berry (b. 1869-d. 1951), Evelyn Lanpher (b. 1877-d.1952), Edgar M. (b. 1880-d.1930), Arthur Berry (b.1844) and Ethel May (b. 1886-d. 1965). The family resided in Stockton Springs, Maine.<sup>1</sup>

Capt. Colcord commanded vessels for over 40 years. He started out as a mariner and then became a sea captain, ship merchant and ship owner.<sup>1</sup> He was shipmaster and part owner of the *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine), *David Babcock* (Bark), *Mignon* (Barkentine) and the *Clara E. Colcord* (Schooner).<sup>2</sup> Captain Colcord was also a ship agent for the barkentine *Mignon*.<sup>3</sup>

Family members were also involved in the shipping industry. Captain Colcord's father, Josiah A. Colcord, was a sailor, master mariner and merchant ship builder. His brother Emery Colcord was a master mariner.<sup>1</sup> Josiah A. Colcord (father) was also master of the *David Babcock* (Bark), 1875. Uncle William David Colcord and brother Frederick D. Colcord partially owned the bark *David Babcock* along with Captain Melvin A. Colcord as well.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, brother Frederick D. Colcord and Captain Arno W. Freeman were part owners of the barkentine *Carrie Heckle* with Captain Colcord.<sup>2</sup> Capt. Melvin A. Colcord is distantly related to Capt. Lincoln Alden Colcord through his great-grandfather, David Colcord.



The *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine) and crew were lost at sea when Captain Freeman was in command. Freeman's wife, Mabel M. Lanpher, had accompanied him on this voyage as well. The vessel sailed on October 5, 1894 for Puerto Rico and was never seen again. Two stories exist for the demise of the vessel and crew. The first anecdote reported by collector of customs at Philadelphia on January 31, 1895 was the *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine) burned at sea due to spontaneous combustion of cargo. The second story was the vessel sunk during a hurricane on October 11, 1894.<sup>2</sup>

Captain Colcord voyaged to domestic and foreign ports on the *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine), *David Babcock* (Bark) and *Mignon* (Bark). He traveled to Montreal, Quebec, Bridgewater (NVS), Barbados, La Brea (TRN), Port Spain (TRN), Matanzas (CUB), Nuevistas (CUB), Sagua la Grande (CUB), Cardenas (CUB), Havana (CUB), British Guiana, Rio de Janeiro (BRA), Buenos Aires, Santa Fe (ARG) as well as Pensacola (FL), New York, Boston, Lewes (DE), Philadelphia, Washington D. C., Portland (ME) and Bangor (ME). Cargos contained lumber, shooks, flour, sugar, locomotive engines, boilers and machinery.

Captain Colcord died on August 12, 1912 in Stockton Springs and was buried at Mount Prospect Cemetery in Stockton Springs. Roxanna Colcord died on September 7, 1912 in Stockton Springs and was buried at Mount Prospect Cemetery as well.

### Scope and Content

This is a small collection of vessel and personal papers for Captain Melvin E. Colcord. The vessels papers pertain to the *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine), *David Babcock* (Bark) and *Mignon* (Barkentine). Some of the vessel papers are bills of sale for the *David Babcock* (Bark),

1875. These documents list co-owner shares for the barkentine *David Babcock*. Co-owner shares include some of the Colcord family: M. E. Colcord (1/32), W. D. Colcord (2/32) and F. D. Colcord (3/32).

There is a ship store invoice for the *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine) dated January 16, 1889. On a freight and cargo receipt are costs calculated in Spanish gold for the *David Babcock* (Bark) bound for Sagua la Grande, Cuba from New York on February 8, 1881. In a letter, A. W. Freeman writes to Captain Colcord from aboard the *Mignon* (Barkentine) about the *Jumbo* (Brig) being laid up due to problems of loading timber in Nuevistas, Cuba on February 5, 1887. Captain Freeman also writes about his frustrations as a sea captain in this same correspondence. Freeman remarks the second mate of the *Carrie L. Tyler* (Bark) died in another letter on June 22, 1887 when in Matanzas.

Personal papers include a correspondence from Roxie Colcord (wife of Captain Colcord) to husband, 1880. There is also a fire insurance policy for the Stockton property (dwelling, barn, furniture) of Mrs. Josiah A. Colcord the mother of Captain Colcord, 1881.<sup>5</sup>

## References

1. <http://trees.ancestry.com>.
2. Vessel Index. Maine Maritime Museum. *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine)
3. MS-354. Folder 18. *Mignon* (Barkentine). Charter parties.
4. MS-354. Folder 6. *David Babcock* (Barkentine). Ownership.
5. MS-354. Folder 11. *David Babcock* (Barkentine). Freight and cargo.

## Organization of Series

**Series I. Vessel related papers (n.d., 1864-1889)** for the *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine), *David Babcock* (Bark) and *Mignon* (Barkentine). Papers include ownership, incoming correspondence, account summaries, invoices, receipts, crew wages, articles of agreement, consul document, bill of health, freight and cargo, clearance documents, charter parties and miscellaneous (envelope).

**Series II. Personal papers (1880-1881)** include an incoming correspondence from "Roxie Colcord" wife to husband (Captain Colcord) and a fire insurance policy for the Stockton property of Mrs. Josiah A. Colcord.

### MS-354 Captain Melvin E. Colcord Papers container list

#### Box# Folder#

#### Series I. Vessel related papers

##### Subseries Ia. *Carrie Heckle* (Barkentine)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Account summary, 1888                         |
|   | 2 | Accounts, general, misc. invoices, n.d., 1888 |
|   |   | Quebec-Montreal-Quebec, Sept.-Oct. 1888       |
|   |   | Buenos Aires-Argentina, Dec. 1888-Feb. 1889   |
|   | 3 | receipts, 1888-89                             |
|   | 4 | Accounts, crew wages, 1888                    |

**Subseries Ib. *David Babcock* (Bark)**

- 5      Ownership, 1875
- 6      Correspondence, general 1881
- 7      Accounts, general, receipts, 1864, 1881
- 8          Articles of agreement, [1881]
- 9          Bill of health, 1881
- 10        Bill of lading and manifest, 1880-81
- 11        Clearance documents, 1881
- 12        Misc. envelope, n.d.

**Subseries Ic. *Mignon* (Bark)**

- 13      Correspondence, incoming 1887
- 14      Accounts, summaries, n. d., 1883, 1887-88
- 15      General, invoices and receipts, n.d., 1887
- 16      Charter parties, 1882-1885
- 17      Freight list, 1883

**Series II. Personal papers**

- 18      Fire insurance policy, no. 2121617 (Stockton property), 1881  
         Mrs. Josiah A. Colcord
- 19      Correspondence, incoming 1880 (Roxie Colcord to Melvin E. Colcord)